

Reclaim the Vision Sunday, January 19, 2014



Dr. King was so much more than his words

By Willie Cobb

he life of Dr. King has been boiled down to one amazing speech. This is the time of year we here a great deal about that speech, but Dr. King was so much more than his words.

Many events, influenced him. Some of these were negative external pressures. When he was married, he and his new bride had to spend their honeymoon over a funeral home. When he died his family was too poor to afford the funeral; subsequently the funeral was paid for by the singer Harry Belafonte. Even before his social ministry began, his life was constantly at risk. During a book signing in the mid-1950s he was stabbed by a mentally ill African-American woman. She drove the knife so far into his heart that it almost cut his main artery. He struggled with internal conflicts, like how to properly deal with the social ills of his time and how to respond to the social pressures thrashed upon the African-American community. His response was power, peace, and love.

He was a powerful thinker from a very young age; he showed signs of being above average starting at the age of five. His parents enrolled him in kindergarten but when he told people his age he was put out of school because he was too young. When he finally entered school, he was promoted to second grade within six months. By the time he was 15 he had been accepted into Morehouse College to study sociology; by the time he was 18 he was an ordained Southern Baptist minister and assistant pastor to his father. By the time he was 19 he graduated from Morehouse with a Bachelors in sociology; by 22 he graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary with a Bachelors in Divinity; by the time he was 26 he received his PhD in Theology. He wrote over 20 books and either co-authored or edited many more.

Dr. King was a complicated man who was supported by his family and friends from a very young age and he in turn supported young people. This is the story that needs to be put forth, not just one great speech that the media trots out once or twice a year.

We need to hear the fact that as a young man King had a great deal of support. This is not the case for many

young people today; they have so little support and so little help. One must wonder how many young Dr. Kings never get to live out their dreams. Most often it was the youth that supported Dr. King. On Sunday Bloody Sunday, thousands of grade and high school students poured onto the street knowing that they would be beaten and even taken to jail. So many young people were jailed that the Rockefeller family loaned the movement half a million dollars to post bail for the young people.* The Freedom Riders were just college students. King supported them. We must, at all costs, live out his mission and support our young people.

Some still believe that young people should just do as they are told; if Dr. King had just done what he had been told, would we have President Obama?

Willie Cobb is the Vicariate VI Youth Ministry Coordinator in the Office for Catechesis & Youth Ministry.

 $*\ http://video.pbs.org/video/1925571160/\ American\ Experiences\ Freedom\ Riders.$

For further reading:

Paris J. Peter: The Theology and Ethics of Martin Luther King, Jr.: Contributions to Christian Thought and Practice. The Body Politic and the Body of Christ Theological Reflections on the Political: The Princeton Theological Review Fall

The National Library Involvement Committee, Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. (Washington D.C.: Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday

Clayborne Carson, Ralph E Luker, Penny A. Russell, Lewis R. Harlan: The Papers of Martin Luther King Junior: volumes 1 Called to Serve University of California press Berkeley and Los Angeles California.

Clayborne Carson, Ralph E Luker, Penny A. Russell, Lewis R. Harlan: The Papers of Martin Luther King Junior: Volume 2 Rediscovering Precious Values: University of California press Berkeley and Los Angeles California.

OBC helps in big win for Bronzeville

Andrew Lyke

t was in the summer of 2012 that Fanya Burford-Berry, a fellow parishioner at Sacred Heart Parish in Joliet, called me to invite me to a march for peace on the Southeast Side of Chicago. This march was spearheaded by Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church on 79th & Jeffery and coordinated by S.O.U.L. (which means



OBC Director Andrew Lyke at the 2013 King Day Event at West Point Baptist Church

Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation). I came to the march and connected with Fanya and others from S.O.U.L. and began exploring how the Office for Black Catholics engage with them on other such initiatives.

Soon after the march Fanya invited me to a meeting of S.O.U.L. leaders and others to discuss the need for Chicago Park District (CPD) field house in Bronzeville. I was delighted to continue the connection made weeks earlier at the peace march. Though, I wasn't sure how the Office for Black Catholics could serve this effort for a field house in Bronzeville. At the meeting I heard that south of the Loop, north of 55th Street, and east of the Dan Ryan Expressway there were no class A CPD facilities to serve that community, while surrounding communities did. My interest stirred around this issue in this community in which I was raised, and where the Cardinal Meyer Center, my workplace, is located. Still not clear how the Office for Black Catholics could help, I continued to meet with the core committee and began hosting the meetings at the Meyer Center.

I was asked to be a part of the presentation on this issue at the annual Martin Luther King Day event, which was at West Point Baptist Church, just around the corner from the Meyer Center. I was impressed by the attention to detail by the planners of this event. I was even more impressed with how the event drew packed attendance that included key political leaders, as well as religious leaders. The gathering had elements that made feel very much like a religious service, but it was also a public meeting to press for the needs of the community, and to "pin" those political leaders to support initiatives that address those needs.

Less than a year later Aldermen Will Burns of the 4th Ward, Alderman Pat Dowell of the 3rd Ward, along with representatives from Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Park District, S.O.U.L. and others were behind the podium at a press conference where Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced official plans for a new arts and recreation center at 35th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue.

Overall, I am pleased with the organizing efforts that got this initiative done. And I'm happy to have engaged the Archdiocese of Chicago through the Office for Black Catholics in winning an important cause for the community.

I invite my fellow Catholics to come to this year's Martin Luther King Day event, which will be on Sunday, January 19, 2013 at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 8235 S. South Shore Drive, Chicago from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. This event is sponsored by IIRON and The People's Lobby, in cooperation with Organizing Catholics for Justice.

Plans for New Arts and Recreation Center to Serve Oakland and Douglas Communities Announced

ayor Rahm Emanuel, Chicago Park District Superintendent Michael Kelly, Alderman Will Burns and Alderman Pat Dowell were joined today by community members, faith leaders and Quad Communities Development Corporation to announce plans for a new arts and recreation center at Ellis Park.

"It is important that every child – no matter their

neighborhood and no matter their income – has access to recreational activities," said Mayor Emanuel. "This announcement is a perfect example of how three separate City departments can come together and act as one unified entity to better Chicago by



Mayor Rahm Emanuel stands behind Alderman Will Burns at press conference announcing the arts and recreation center.

providing a safe place where neighborhoods will gather and communities will be solidified."

The City of Chicago is leading the development and financing for the proposed 30,000-square foot, \$16 million facility that will serve the greater Oakland, Douglas and Bronzeville communities. Funding sources include the Chicago Housing Authority, TIF funds and New Market Tax Credits.

"Today's announcement is a fulfillment of a decade long effort by the Bronzeville community to secure a level one park district field house," said Alderman Burns, 4th Ward. "Today is a great day for Bronzeville and its residents."

"I am extremely pleased to be a partner in this anchor we are building to support the Grand Boulevard, Douglas, Kenwood, and Oakland Communities," said Alderman Dowell, 3rd Ward. "Alderman Will Burns, the Quad Cities Development Corporation, and our communities have been tireless advocates for this project for years and we thank Mayor Rahm Emanuel for his support."

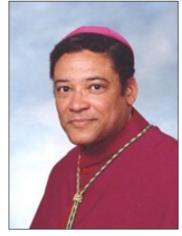
The site is currently comprised of approximately 5 acres in Ellis Park. The facility will include a full-size gymnasium with two basketball courts, an indoor pool, art and education club rooms, a fitness center and studio, meeting hall, and music and theater performance spaces. Land assembly and design would be completed by fall 2014. Construction is projected to begin next fall and to be completed by the end of 2015.

Father Augustus Tolton

1854-1897

Bishop Joseph N. Perry

ugustus Tolton was 9 years old when his family escaped with him with his younger brother Samuel Joseph and older sister Anna across over forty miles of fields, brush and forest and the Mississippi River to the



free state of Illinois. The Toltons were slaves baptized Catholic on a farm at Rawls County, Northeast Missouri, a slave state. Peter Paul, Martha Jane's husband, parted with his family at Hannibal, Missouri, probably in trade to get his family to Illinois, and thus went on to fight for freedom with Union Troops in the Civil War but was later discovered to have died of illness at a dispensary in Arkansas.

Augustus, who went on to become the first acknowledged black Catholic priest in the United States, is now a candidate for sainthood, the Archdiocese of Chicago announced in January 2010. The required investigation into Tolton's life and ministry and heroic virtues is well underway. The pope ultimately can declare someone a saint following a process that includes the approval of two miracles at the intercession of the candidate before the throne of Almighty God.

Augustus was born April 1, 1854 at Brush Creek, Missouri. Arriving in Quincy after a harrowing escape and hunted by Confederate bounty hunters, Martha Jane's children grew up in Quincy. Augustus came to the attention of a local parish priest, Father Peter McGirr, who admitted the boy into his parish school despite racist threats. Franciscan friars noticed Tolton's intelligence and purity of life and arranged for Tolton to be educated in their college in Quincy and then at the prestigious Propaganda Fide Seminary in Rome. He was ordained a priest, Easter Vigil April 24, 1886.

"It was said that I would be the only priest of my race in America and would not likely succeed," Tolton once wrote. But a Cardinal, Giovanni Simeoni, in Rome said, "America has been called the most enlightened nation; we'll see if it deserves that honor. If America has never seen a black priest, it has to see one now." With these prophetic words the assignment orders for Father Tolton changed from some place in Africa to Quincy, Illinois.

Father Augustus served in Quincy for several years till racial bigotry thrown at him from Protestants and Catholics became intolerable. The Archbishop of Chicago, Patrick Feehan, invited him to come to help a fledgling group of black Catholics there who met in the basement of (Old) St. Mary's Church downtown. In Chicago, Father Tolton started St. Monica Parish in 1891 at 36th and Dearborn streets, but died before his new church building could be finished, at the age of 43, during an exceptionally stifling heat wave that hit the city the week of July 9, 1897. He is buried in St. Peter Cemetery, Quincy, Illinois. The word "no" was spat in his face more often than not during his life because of his skin color. We trust this time the Church can say "yes" to his

proclaimed sainthood. Father Tolton is honored across the United States and abroad as one who conquered insurmountable odds leaving behind a shining legacy of perseverance, great faith, charity and holy service to God and the Church.

The touching story of Father Augustus Tolton reminds us of the glaring social deficits of a former time in this country. Much has improved since that time but much still remains to be done to build on the society that we call free. A religious figure like Father Tolton rises with unique inspiration amidst the barriers and separations once ordered by law between black and white races in this country. His was a quiet and noble approach. He himself was an apostle to both white and black. Forces attempted to derail his priestly service in a creeping milieu of diversity that cried out for social and legal recognition but for which society and the church could not respond. In Chicago, whereas overt opposition was much lessened, Father Tolton still lived the racial neighborhood isolation of this city that made his efforts to build up the Church here doubly hard.

The good Lord allowed his witness only a short stay here. He is a pioneer, one who easily elicits our sympathy but one who reminds us of the courage we have within our hearts to continue to work for racial and ethnic solidarity while eradicating all forms of hesitancy and intolerance.

Jan Sung



Black Catholic recording artist brings ministry tour through Chicago

manda Vernon is a recording artist from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Through a genre she calls, "soulful pop," this singer, pianist, and composer speaks to authentic beauty through music, the language of the soul.

At age 26, Amanda has over a decade of experience in both studio recording and live performance. She has performed her original music across the



Amanda Vernon

United States and in six foreign countries, including the 2008 and 2011 World Youth Days in Sydney, Australia and Madrid, Spain. Amanda was a feature of the Youth Track of the 2006 Archbishop James Lyke Conference in Chicago.

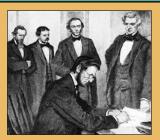
After running a successful Kickstarter campaign to fund her latest recording project, she released her 5th full-length album on May 31st, 2013. The project, "Interior Gaze," features 10 original songs. In September 2013, her song, "Cleaning and Scrubbing" from the new album won the pop music genre in the international competition "ArtPrize."

Amanda is currently on a year-long musical tour since July 1st, 2013. Together with her husband and their children (a son and a daughter, both under the age of 3), she is traveling the U.S. sharing her music and message.

On Tuesday, January 14, 2013 Amanda Vernon will perform in concert at Seton Academy located at 16100 Seton Rd, South Holland, Illinois.



DID YOU KNOW...



... that on New Year's Day, 1963, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery in Confederate states but not in non-rebelling slave states (Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri)?



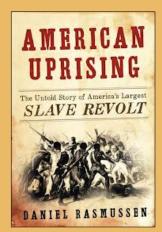
... that on January 2, 1944 William James Howard, a black 15-year-old, is lynched by three White men in Suwannee County, Florida, after one of the men accused Howard of writing a love note to his daughter?



... that on January 5, 1923, after a White woman falsely accuses a Black man of rape, a White mob attacked the thriving Black town of Rosewood, Florida, in a multi-day riot that destroys the town and leaves up to 80 dead.



... that on January 6, 1959, Richard and Mildred Loving pleaded guilty to violating Virginia law against interracial marriage and received one-year sentences in prison unless they left the state for 25 years?



... that on January 8, 1811, the largest slave insurrection in U.S. history began in Louisiana territory? After their defeat, many of the 500 rebelling slaves were mutilated, decapitated, and burned alive.



... that on January 9, 1961, mobs of White students rioted, forcing school officials to suspend Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes after they become the first Black students to integrate the University of Georgia?

DID YOU KNOW...



... that on January 10, 1966, Vernon Dahmer, Black businessman and voting rights activist, died after his Hattiesburg, Mississippi, home was firebombed?



... that on January 11, 1960, Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver, Jr. threatened to withhold state funding from any public school that attempted to integrate Black and White students?



Patrick Morris, Jr.
... that on January 12, 1896, a mob of 20 set fire to
Jefferson Parish, Louisiana home of Patrick (White) and Charlotte (Black) Morris, who were burned to death?
Their son, Patrick Morris, Jr., escaped with his life.

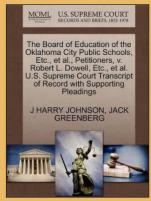


... that on January 13, 1957,

in Montgomery, Alabama, the congregations of four Black churches gathered for Sunday services three days after their churches and two homes were bombed?



... that on January 14, 1931, Black residents of Maryville, Missouri, fled the city after a White mob chained a Black man accused of killing a White teacher to the top of the schoolhouse and burned it down?



... that on January 15, 1991, U.S. Supreme Court ended federal desegregation order even though that would cause racial re-segregation of the school system in *Board of Education of Oklahoma City Schools v. Dowell*?

... that on January 17, 1834, Alabama legislature passed a law that effectively bans any free Black person from residing in the state?

... that in the week of January 21, 1804, the Virginia legislature passed a law outlawing all nighttime meetings of enslaved people?

DID YOU KNOW....

Such unlawful assemblies were made punishable by up to 20 lashes.

... that on January 22, 1883, the U.S. Supreme Court in *U.S. v. Harris* refused to permit Congress to criminalize acts of the terrorist group, the Ku Klux Klan?



... that on January 23, 1957, Ku Klux Klan members forced Willie Edwards, Jr., a Black resident of Montgomery, Alabama, to jump to his death from a bridge over the Alabama river? They never faced prosecution for his murder.



... that on January 24, 1956, after paying \$4,000 for their story, *Look* magazine published the confession of two White men acquitted of killing 14-year-old Emmet Till in 1955?



... that on January 25, 1942, a White mob abducted Cleo Wright, accused of assaulting a White woman in Sikeston, Missouri, from jail as church let out, dragged him behind a care, and set him on fire in from of two Black churches?



... that on January 29, 1883, in *Pace v.* Alabama, U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of criminalizing sex and marriage between Black and White people after an interracial couple is sentenced to two years in prison?



... that on January 30, 1956, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s house in Montgomery, Alabama, was bombed while he spoke at a mass meeting? King later addressed an angry crowd and pleaded for nonviolence.

SAVE THE DATES >>> The Josephite Pastoral Center and the National Black Catholic Congress present.... "Pastoring In Black Parishes" a Series of Clergy Enrichment Conferences

Development and Enrichment Conference for Priests,
Deacons and Seminarians

Tuesday, November 12, 2013 - 4:30 pm through Wednesday, November 13, 2013 - 5:30 pm Cost: \$175.00

"Blessed Art Thou", A Women's Worth A Conference on the Dignity of Women Saturday, June 7, 2014 Cost: \$ 75.00

> Location: St. Joseph Seminary 1200 Varnum Street, NE Washington, DC 20017

Registration Contact: A'dell Lee (202) 526-9270 Email: ssipastrontr@aol.com



God's Praises Tell

The Voice of Black Catholic Chicago
Tuesdays 9-9:30 a.m.
Relevant Radio 950-AM
Hosted by Andrew Lyke

The Church, the Cardinal and You



Produced by the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Radio and Television

The Church, The Cardinal and You is a monthly news show featuring interviews with Cardinal George and broadcast via the Comcast cable network. Andrew Lyke, director of the Office for Black Catholics, and Todd Williamson, director of the Office for Divine Worship, host this show that includes a variety of stories taped at locations across the Archdiocese of Chicago. This program is produced by the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Radio and Television.

Comcast customers who live in Chicago and throughout the suburbs can see The Church, The Cardinal and You, Sunday at 2:30 p.m. on CN-100, the Comcast Network (Channel 100). The program also airs Friday at 7 p.m. on Chicago Loop Cable Channel 25.

Organizing Catholics For Justice

unites Chicago Catholics through

Grassroots Organizing

to address the problem of injustice

SAVE THE DATE!Hope in an Age of Crisis:

Reclaiming Dr. King's Radical Vision for Economic Equality



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration and Public Meeting

Sunday, January 19, 2014

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

8235 S. South Shore Drive, Chicago

Musical celebration and registration at 2:30 pm. Public meeting will start promptly at 3:00 pm. Sponsored by IIRON and The People's Lobby.





www.arusi.org



Dear Friends:

We are excited to announce the first fundraising campaign for ArusiNetwork. It's been 20 years since the first *Arusi Marriage Retreat* in Milwaukee. For over 3 decades we have served couples around the country by offering a fresh, Christ-centered model of relationship in which marriage is less vulnerable and support is more in reach. The marriage retreat is now titled *Marriage On A Lampstand*, which expresses our emphasis on the witness of sacramental life in mission, not just for the couple but for the family and community (Matthew 5:14).

In more recent years our *Relationship Boot Camp* has offered encouragement and empowerment to couples who are hesitant about marriage. In both programs we instill in couples a sense of mission to mirror the love of God and be witnesses to the family and community. We help them experience how their imperfect love, with God's mercy and grace, reflects Gods perfect love.

We are expanding the ministry in a variety of ways, including the "God-Couple Awards," which will greatly lift up sacramental marriage for the community.

We need your financial support to continue this important work. In this very first fundraising campaign our goal is to raise \$50,000. Your generous, tax deductible donation will help us to acquire staff support, enhance our Web presence, train couple facilitators, expand the ministry, serve more communities, and raise the profile of healthy, Christian marriage among African Americans. We invite you be a stakeholder in this holy work.

Part of this campaign is a **Black & White Fundraising Gala**, which will be on **January 25**th from **5:00** to **9:00 PM** at the **Swissotel Edelweiss Penthouse, 323 E. Upper Wacker Dr., Chicago.** Please come and celebrate 20 years of Arusi.

Reserve your seat at the gala and make your pledge for financial support. Visit our current website for more information about the ministry and to make your donation online. Go to www.arusi.org.

Thank you for your generous support.

Your brother and sister in Christ,

andrew of Terri Lyke

Andrew & Terri Lyke Co-Founders ArusiNetwork, Inc. P.O. Box 907 Matteson, Illinois 60443

African-American Heritage Celebration Prayer Service

"This is our Story"

with ValLimar Jansen



For Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Chicago

February 26, 2014 9:30 a.m.

HOLY NAME CATHEDRAL 735 N. STATE STREET

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE PRAYER SERVICE



IS LOOKING FOR PRAISE DANCERS TO JOIN OUR LITURGICAL TEAM ON FEBRUARY 26, 2014

(open to elementary & high school students)

REHEARSALS WILL TAKE PLACE AT ST. FELICITAS CHURCH (LOWER LEVEL) 1500 W. 84TH STREET CHICAGO, IL 60619

MANDATORY REHEARSAL DATES:

Saturdays: Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, Feb. 22

Practice Attire: Comfortable Clothes To Dance In (no jeans)

AAHM CHOREOGRAPHER: YOLANDA SANDIFER-HORTON
(773)707-6619 <u>expressionsofu@gmail.com</u>



TELLING OUR STORY THROUGH DANCE





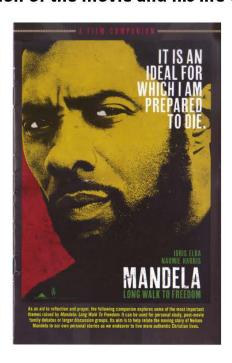
MANDELA: LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

THIS MOVIE WILL OPEN AT LOCAL THEATERS ON DECEMBER 25, 2013
YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEE IT ALONE OR WITH A GROUP, THEN
Join the

ST. AILBE CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB FOR A TRIBUTE TO MANDELA!

We will discuss our roles as Christians in making his ideals a reality!

Each participant will receive a review/study booklet that will enhance your appreciation of the movie and his life teachings.



DATE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2014

PLACE: ST. AILBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

LOWER LEVEL

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT KATHRYN WORTHEN AT 708-339-1346

music concert

Dynamic Christian Recording Artist

Speaking to authentic beauty through music, the language of the soul.



Seton Academy

January 14, 2014 7:00 PM 16100 Seton Rd, South Holland, Illinois Free Admission

Call the Office for Black Catholics for details

312-534-8376

Knights Of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary St. Felicitas - St. Ailbe Court #181 Presents

The Twentieth Annual Archbishop James P. Lyke, O.F.M.

African American Male Image Awards



Georgios Banquets 8800 West 159th Street, Orland Park, Illinois Sunday, February 16, 2014 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Donation: \$45.00

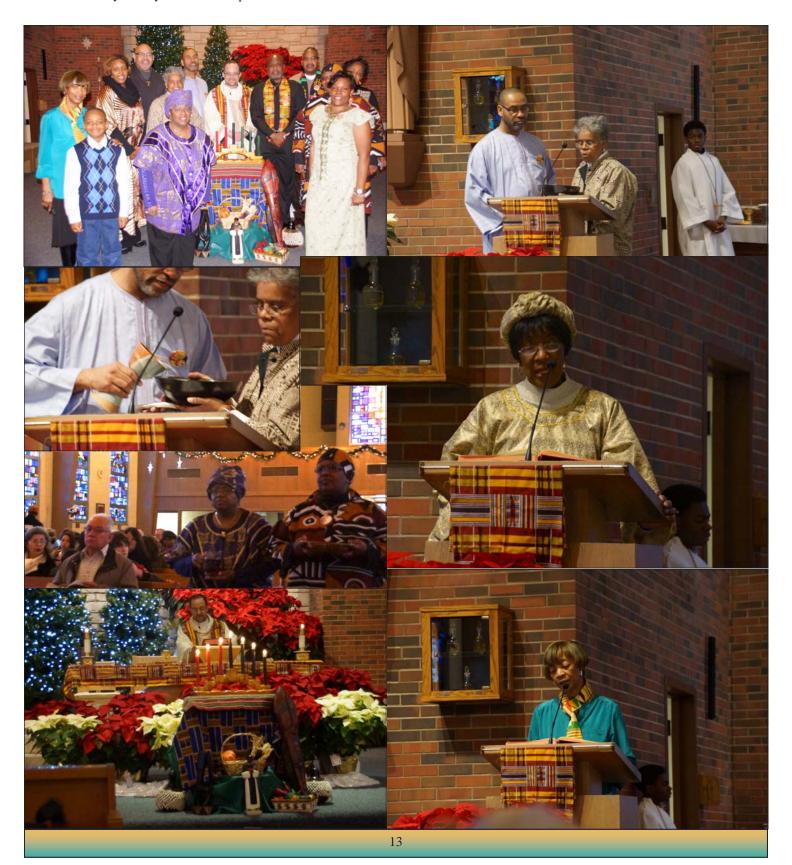
GUEST SPEAKER:

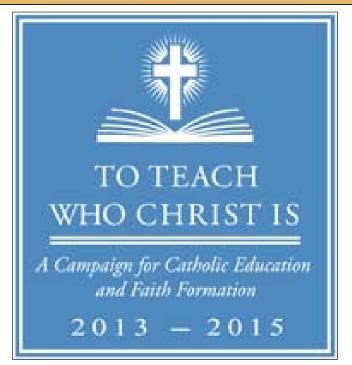
Please contact: Lady Yvonne A. Jones-Lady Bobbie Levy Chairpersons @773-382-0521/773-731-0246 Evelyn Slater, Grand Lady

All contributions made are tax deductible within the extent allowed by law.

Kwanzaa

Parishes around the Archdiocese celebrated Kwanzaa. Among them were St. Ailbe, St. Martin De Porres, and South Suburban St. Lawrence O'Toole. Below are photos taken from the St. Lawrence O'Toole Kwanzaa celebration, which was at the 11:00 Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family. This was the parish's 24th annual Kwanzaa celebration.









n Africa, tribes used the drum to bring the community together to celebrate, to mourn and to communicate. The drum kept the community connected, informed and in harmony.

The Drum, today, is a publication of the Office for Black Catholics, an agency of the Archdiocese of Chicago, edited and published by Andrew Lyke.

The Drum contains news, events and insights relevant to the Black Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

As it did for our ancestors in Africa, the Drum connects us to one another as a community in faith and action.

Stay with the beat. Hold on to your faith.

Subscribe to the Drum. Go to www.blackcatholicchicago.org to subscribe today.

Office for Black Catholics * OBC@archchicago.org * 312-534-8376

The Drum is a publication of the Office for Black Catholics, an agency of the Archdiocese or Chicago.

Editor, layout designer, and publisher: Andrew Lyke,

Director of the Office for Black Catholics



News about activities and events relevant to the Black Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Chicago may be submitted before the 15th of the month. Submissions will be considered for publication under the scrutiny of the Office for Black Catholics. All submissions must be submitted in electronic formats using MS Word, MS Publisher, or PDF. All rights reserved.

Stay with the beat and subscribe to *The Drum* today! Go to blackcatholicchicago.org